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Northern Developments

The Newsletter of the Northern Alberta Development Council

NADC welcomes five new members

The Honourable Pearl Calahasen, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, and Gary Friedel, Chair of the Northern Alberta Development Council, announced the appointment of five new Council members. Joining current Council members Wendell MacEachern, Mike Mihaly, Gary Pollock and Maurice Rivard, will be Kim Courtoreille, Carmen Ewing, Helen Henderson, Michael Ouellette and Harvey Yoder. Both Minister Calahasen and Mr. Friedel were pleased to welcome the new appointees to the Council.

Retiring from the Council after completing their four-year term are Sandra Cardinal, Doris Courtoreille, Berkley Ferguson and Pete Merlo. According to Mr. Friedel, "Sandra, Doris, Berkley and Pete were excellent members who did an outstanding job of representing Northern Alberta. Their many contributions greatly assisted in advancing northern development." The Council is also sad to see Ron Faulkner leave. Ron resigned after serving one year of his term due to a change in career and business directions.

Retiring Council members



From left: Gary Friedel (left), NADC Chair, and Berkley Ferguson; Sandra Cardinal; and Pete Merlo. Missing is Doris Courtoreille.

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Check out the NADC website www3.gov.ab.ca/nadc, for information on upcoming events, recent publications, reports, and NADC programs.

MONEY FOR EDUCATION

NADC Bursary Deadlines

Planning to work in northern Alberta?
Apply for the
NADC Bursary by
May 15, 2004

Want to become a doctor in northern Alberta?
Apply for the
NADC Bursary for
Medical Students by
June 1, 2004

Bursary applications are available on-line at www3.gov.ab.ca/nadc

Northern Alberta contributes big numbers to the economy

Northern Alberta Contributions Study

The Northern Alberta economic contribution study clearly demonstrates the economic importance of the region to Alberta and Canada, now and in the future.

A lack of awareness of the northern economy leads to inappropriate policies, programs, and services, along with the subsequent loss of potential investment in the North. To overcome these challenges, we need to inform public and private decision-makers of the North's significant contributions to the economy.

Focus on Agriculture

Northern Alberta exported \$321 million of agricultural products in 2002, \$280 million of crops (19.1% of Alberta total) and \$41 million of livestock (5.3% of Alberta total). Farm receipts for the region totalled \$911 million in 2000.

Wheat, barley, canola, alfalfa, hay, cattle and pig production account for the bulk of Northern Alberta's agricultural wealth. The North's plentiful supply of these commodities represents a tremendous and largely untapped opportunity for value-added agribusiness investments.

Help us get the message out!

Northern Alberta contributed...

- ✓ \$3.8 billion, 17% of total Alberta Government Revenue (2001/02)
- ✓ 17% of Alberta Government personal and corporate income tax revenue and non-renewable resource revenue in 1999 and close to 29% in 2001.
- ✓ \$2.5 billion, almost 13% of Alberta's total contribution to Federal Government revenues (2001/02).
- ✓ \$16 billion of Alberta's international commodity exports in 2002, one third of Alberta's total.
- ✓ \$5.3 billion, 25% of Alberta's interprovincial exports in 2002.

Update on the Alberta Beef North

The Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) is continuing to support the Alberta Beef North team in promoting the expansion of the beef industry in the North. Although the industry is currently under considerable stress and uncertainty, eventually there will be an expansion in Northern Alberta production and value-added initiatives through existing and new investment.

Low cost production sites like Northern Alberta have a competitive advantage over southern operations.

The NADC encourages readers to work together to develop northern solutions and to collectively promote Northern Alberta as a viable investment alternative in this sector. For more information, contact Allen Geary at (780) 624-6274

Northern Exposure Tourism Conference: Learn + Partner = Opportunity

Nearly one hundred delegates, speakers and dignitaries took part in the third *Northern Exposure Tourism Conference* held at the Quality Hotel and Conference Centre in Grande Prairie from February 25 to 27, 2004.

The event brought full and part-time northern tourism business operators and municipal partners together to help facilitate tourism opportunities across the north. According to delegates, the three day event certainly "delivered the goods" to northerners.

Fifteen concurrent sessions covered a range of topics including *Aboriginal Tourism, E-Marketing, Agri-tourism, and Best Practices for Part-Time Tourism Businesses*. Day two featured the debut of Travel Alberta In-Province's interactive seminar *Selling Alberta: Strategies for Pricing, Partnering and Packaging*.

"The organizers of the recent Northern Exposure III Conference in Grande Prairie held up the proud heritage of their predecessors by staging an incredibly useful event for northern tourism operators, municipal administrators and politicians.

All in all, the attendees were more than satisfied, and eagerly await the next such conference."

Steve Lane, Chair, Travel Alberta North

The Northern Alberta Development Council, which partnered with Travel Alberta North to host the event, extends a special thanks to Travel Alberta and all of the conference speakers and sponsors. For more information about the conference, please contact Brad Bishop at (780) 624-6535.

Excellent turnout for the Northern Opportunities Seminars

The Northern Alberta Development Council held two successful Northern Opportunities Seminars in Grande Cache and High Level earlier this year. Community and business leaders came together with others interested in economic development to learn and exchange information about business and employment opportunities in their region.

The Grande Cache event, held on February 19 and 20, 2004, began with a dinner hosted by the Town of Grande Cache and Team Grande Cache. Issues related to the upgrading of Highway 40 south of Grande Cache, the Grande Cache Forestry Initiative, dinosaur tourism potential in the region, and the implementation of Team Grande Cache's strategic plan were discussed.

About eighty people attended the Friday seminar to hear presentations from local representatives in the oil and gas, forestry, coal and tourism industries, as well as from local businesses. Ivan Strang, Member of the Legislative Assembly for West Yellowhead, gave an update on local forestry and mining project issues, and Assistant Deputy Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Ken Boutillier, talked about Aboriginal consultation in Alberta and its role in the future economic development of the province during his luncheon keynote speech.

The Mackenzie Region Northern Opportunities Seminar attracted over one hundred delegates from Alberta and the Northwest

Territories to the Town of High Level on March 11 and 12, 2004. The event was held in cooperation with the towns of High Level and Rainbow Lake, the Municipal District of Mackenzie 23, and the Regional Economic Development Initiative for Northwest Alberta.

Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger,
Minister of Health and Social Services for
the Northwest Territories

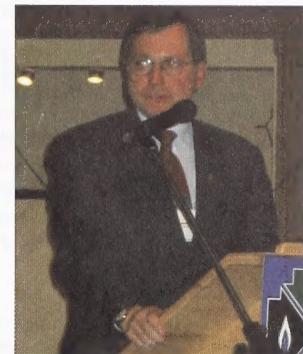
The Honourable J.
Michael Miltenberger,

Northern Alberta Industry Profile coming soon

The Northern Alberta Development Council is compiling a Northern Alberta Industry Profile in partnership with Alberta Economic Development. The profile was developed in response to requests from local communities and organizations for industry information to help them plan and implement economic development initiatives.

The profile will include detailed maps of major industry, transportation infrastructure and natural resource

Minister of Health and Social Services for the Northwest Territories and Co-Chair for the Alberta Northwest Territories Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation and Development, was the Special Guest Speaker at the Thursday evening reception. Mr. Miltenberger talked about the existing economic, health and education linkages between the two jurisdictions, and the opportunity to further strengthen these connections.



Honourable Ed Stelmach, Alberta
Minister of Transportation

On Friday, the full-day seminar featured presentations on the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline, transportation issues, doing business in the Northwest Territories, the potential of agriculture and containerization, and service industry development. Ed Stelmach, Alberta Minister of Transportation, was the luncheon keynote speaker and brought up local highway concerns and issues associated with the lack of coordination in trucking regulations between jurisdictions.

The Northern Alberta Development Council holds two Northern Opportunities Seminars each year. For more information, please contact the Northern Alberta Development Council in Peace River at (780) 624-6274.

"The Opportunities Seminars are an excellent forum for networking between community leaders in business, industry and education and those looking for opportunities in Northern Alberta."

*Gary Pollock, Council member
and moderator of Grande Cache seminar.*

developments, as well as graphs and other documents with relevant industry information. The information will be available by municipal district, county, and for Northern Alberta as a region. The profile will be available on the Northern Alberta Development Council's website www3.gov.ab.ca/nadc later this spring.

For more information, contact Sam Warrior of the Northern Alberta Development Council at (780) 624-6274.

Northern LINKS helping northern students further their education

The Northern Alberta Development Council has awarded over \$400,000 through *Northern LINKS* for projects in the 2003/04 fiscal year.

"Continued development of the North is dependent on improved education opportunities for northern students" said Pearl Calahasan, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister, who is also responsible for the Northern Alberta Development Council. "The *Northern LINKS* program helps schools help students realize their potential."

Northern LINKS is a program to encourage northern students to complete their schooling and pursue post-secondary education. Aimed at students in grades 9 to 12 and first year post-secondary students, the program provides project funding for campus tours, student mentors and career-related speakers.

In October last year, *Northern LINKS* organized a series of workshops to encourage youth to stay in school with comedian Don Burnstick. The workshops were held in nine communities across central northeast Alberta and were well

In the 2003-2004 fiscal year, *Northern LINKS* provided funding support or approval for:

- ✓ 2 career resource centres
- ✓ 13 career speakers or workshops
- ✓ 16 career fairs, open houses or orientations
- ✓ 19 mentor or student liaison programs
- ✓ 52 campus tours

attended. Participation ranged from 75 people in Calling Lake to 675 in Lac La Biche.

Other workshops funded through *Northern LINKS* have been geared to increasing student success in school. Mike Suto gave a series of workshops on "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens" in Fort McMurray and the international motivational speaker, Bruce Balmer, gave a series of "Study Hints" workshops in ten schools in central northwest Alberta in March.

The next application deadline for projects starting this fall is May 1, 2004.

Upcoming Meetings

NADC meeting in Grimshaw

April 15 & 16, 2004

The next Northern Alberta Development Council meeting will be held on April 15 and 16, 2004 in Grimshaw. A Leader's Roundtable meeting will be held on the morning of Friday, April 16 in the Royal Canadian Legion in Grimshaw. Community, business, and government leaders are invited to make presentations to the Council. Contact Jennifer Bisley at (780) 624-6278 for more information.

NCDC 2004 Conference and Annual General

Meeting in High Level

September 29 to October 1, 2004

The Northwest Corridor Development Corporation (NCDC) is holding its 2004 Conference and Annual General Meeting in the Town of High Level from September 29 to October 1, 2004. The Corporation promotes the use and development of Canada's northwest transportation and trade corridor. According to Graham Kedgley, Executive Director of NCDC, "holding the 2004 Conference in High Level underlines the importance of the Northwest Corridor to Northern Alberta in terms of moving northern products to market." The Northern Alberta Development Council acts as an advisor for the Corporation. Contact Tom Baldwin at (780) 624-6274 for more information.

Recruitment materials available

Opportunity North is a recruitment resource for northern Alberta employers created by the Northern Alberta Development Council. A website, CD-ROM, brochures, business cards, and logo are available for your use in recruitment campaigns. For information on careers, communities and lifestyles in Northern Alberta check out www.opportunitynorth.ca. Call Audrey DeWit at (780) 624-6274 for more information on using the recruitment resources.

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Happy Easter from all the members and staff at the Northern Alberta Development Council.

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Phone: (780) 623-6982

Call toll free, dial 310-0000 first

